

## DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;  
that I verily believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed  
and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

### **Method and Apparatus for Cinching Cargo to a Vehicle Carrier**

described and claimed in the specification which is filed herewith as docket # SteinCinch-PA.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified  
specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this  
application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, section 119 of  
any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified  
below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of  
the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Applications (Number)	(Country)	Priority Claimed (Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
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NONE

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional  
application(s) listed below:

(Serial #) (Filing Date) (Status)

60/268,315 February 12, 2001 Pending

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, section 120 of any United  
States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this  
application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the  
first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose  
material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1.56(a) which  
occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international  
filing date of this application:

(Serial #) (Filing Date) (Status-patented, pending, abandoned)

NONE

I hereby appoint practitioners at customer number 27,119 to prosecute this application  
and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition  
Docket#: StripCinch-PA  
Page 1 of 2

Direct all correspondence to Customer Number 27,119.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor's Signature: John P. Stein

Date: 2/12/02

Inventor's Name: Mr. John P. Stein

Residence Address: 14087 State Highway 15

City: Kimball County: Stearns State: MN Zip: 55353

Citizenship: US Post Office Address: Same as Residence

**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number StateCinch-PA

Applicant or Patentee: John P. Stein

Serial or Patent No.: Herewith

Filed or Issued: Herewith

Title: Method and Apparatus for Cinching Cargo to a Vehicle Carrier

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(e) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- No such person, concern, or organization exists.  
 Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

Alpaca Carriers, Inc.

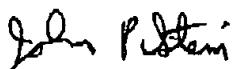
Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR John P. Stein

Signature of inventor



Date

February 12, 2002

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

Docket Number SteinCinch-PA

Applicant or Patentee: John P. Stein

Serial or Patent No.: Herewith

Filed or Issued: Herewith

Title: Method and Apparatus for Cinching Cargo to a Vehicle Carrier

I hereby declare that I am

- the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Alpaca Carriers, Inc.

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN 14087 State Hwy 15 Kimball, MN 55353

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 37 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention must file separate verified statements asserting to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(e) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

- no such person, concern, or organization exists.  
 each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention asserting to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING

John P. Stein

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING

14087 State Hwy 15 Kimball, MN 55353

SIGNATURE

John P. Stein

DATE February 12, 2002